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TO : DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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FROM : Amembassy NICOSIA

DATE: November 14, 1963

SUBJECT: PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES: Protocol Chief's Comments on
Alitheia Article

REF : Embassy's A-157, October 8, 1963

Yesterday Cypriot Chief of Protocol asked to see me urgently, saying that at request of Foreign Minister he wanted to comment on adverse report in Alitheia on American privileges and immunities in Cyprus. Alitheia, which is liberal, independent weekly, published by notorious, unreliable FARMAKIDES, periodically takes off on one controversial subject or another and frequently belabors American officials for their privileges and immunities here. Communist Haravghi took up the cry again today.

PELAGHIAS said that although article had been written to seem as if Foreign Ministry had been source, latter had had nothing in any way to do with it and proposed to make no comment on Alitheia's latest blast lest it prolong present controversy.

I asked him to thank Foreign Minister for courtesy of explanation and added that although I had not yet had opportunity to study text of Alitheia report, we had no intention of paying any attention to it, much less replying to it.

I also agreed it would be preferable if Foreign Ministry did not comment.

Comment: It seems to me Alitheia's latest article is of little or no importance. Few people read this weekly and it does not reflect true state of affairs; it merely tries to stir up trouble and promote circulation. At the same time I hope we shall soon be able to straighten out the question of privileges and immunities for Americans by bilateral agreement, as present uncertainty can in long run create erroneous impression.

Fraser Wilkins

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Drafted by:

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AmbFraserWilkins:mgd November 12, 1963
Cle:State Dept. review completed